

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00178 202242Z

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ACTION IO-10

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TAGS: SEVN

SUBJ: HABITAT PREP COM

1. HABITAT PREP COM WHICH BEGAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16 HAS NOW GOTTEN THROUGH SYG'S PROGRESS REPORT AND GENERAL DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED IT. MOOD OF MOST DELS WAS ONE OF IMPATIENCE COUPLED WITH DETERMINATION TO RESOLVE ELUSIVE AGENDA QUESTION AND GET PREPARATORY PROCESS WELL UNDERWAY.

2. THERE IS NOW CONSENSUS THAT AGENDA WILL BE PUT IN SEMI-FINAL FORM AT THIS MEETING WITH FINAL DECISIONS BEING MADE AT AUGUST PREP COM. PLANS CALL FOR SMALL GROUP TO ASSEMBLE DRAFT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION BY FULL COMMITTEE BEGINNING JANUARY 21.

3. MOST DELS, BOTH INDUSTRIALIZED AND LDC'S, WANT BROAD AGENDA, WITH HOUSING INCLUDED BUT NOT OVEREMPHASIZED. NONE HAS SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED POINT PENALOSE HAS BEEN STRESSING - NAMELY, THAT PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMEDYING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS LIES WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THAT MAIN OUTCOME OF VANCOUVER MUST BE NATIONAL ACTION. A FEW OF THE LDC'S HAVE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIONS SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTIMATED. PENALOSA HAS ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROBLEMS ARE BASICALLY POLITICAL - NOT TECHNOLOGICAL. NO ONE HAS QUARRELED WITH THIS POINT EITHER.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 00178 202242Z

4. IMPORTANT PROCEDURAL STEP SUGGESTED BY PENALOSA WHICH SHOULD ACCELERATE PREPARATORY PROCESS IS ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUPS. THESE WILL BEGIN MEETING THIS SPRING AND SHOULD PROVIDE VEHICLE FOR CONTINUING INTERACTION BETWEEN SECRETARIAT AND MEMBERS GOVERNMENTS.

5. MOST DELS ARE TAKING PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS POLICIES AND ISSUES QUITE SERIOUSLY AND HAVE BEEN PLEADING OF EXTENSION OF MARCH 31 DEADLINE, EXPECT THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION THIS WEEK RE SHAPE AND CONTENT OF THESE REPORTS AS WELL AS DEADLINE, AT LUNCH WITH ECE COUNTRIES, PENALOSE RESISTED IDEA OF DELAYING SUBMISSION DATE BUT SEEMED INTERESTED IN CANADIAN IDEA OF INTERIM REPORT BY MARCH 31 TO BE FOLLOWED BY FINAL REPORT LATER.

6. COMMITTEE HAS HEAVY WORKLOAD FOR REMAINDER OF MEETING. IN ADDITION TO AGENDA DEFINITION AND NATIONAL REPORTS, DISCUSSION WILL FOCUS ON STRUCTURE OF CONFERENCE; PRECISE ROLE WHICH REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THIS SUMMER WILL PLAY PREPARATORY PROCESS; AND AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATIONS.

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COMMENT: PENALOSA'S PERFORMANCE, BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE. OBVIOUS THAT HIS MISSIONARY WORK (VISITS TO 52 COUNTRIES) HAS PAID OFF. MANY LDC'S ARE REPRESENTED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES IN PLANNING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, ETC. HE HAS ALSO SHOWN HIMSELF RESPONSIVE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENT CONCERNS AND HAS MADE CLEAR THAT HE VIEWS SECRETARIAT ROLE AS THAT OF "COORDINATOR NOT RINGMASTER." HE ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PERSUASIVE IN PUSHING HIS MAIN THEME - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROBLEMS ARE FUNDAMENTALLY A CHALLENGE TO NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS - A VIEW WHICH IS FULLY IN ACCORD WITH OUR OWN.

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